



# Poudre Valley Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH

December 28, 2013

**Requires Immediate Attention  
This is a Health Alert**

# SAMPLE LETTER

Patient address

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Poudre Valley Hospital is sending you this letter because a former employee may have put some patients at risk for exposure to hepatitis C. Although there have been no cases reported of a patient contracting hepatitis C related to this employee, and there is currently no evidence the employee actually exposed any patient, we believe the best precaution is for patients to be tested who received IV painkillers in the ICU on certain dates between September 1, 2011 and August 28, 2012, and certain others who received these painkillers in connection with the ICU care team.

**Our records indicate that you received injectable painkillers in the ICU, or in connection with the ICU care team, between September 1, 2011 and August 28, 2012. If this is correct, we believe, as does the State Health Department, that you should take a free, confidential blood test.**

We are working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in its investigation of this situation. Based on the investigation, testing is not necessary for HIV or hepatitis B. While the behavior that led to the employee's termination and this investigation occurred recently, it has been confirmed that it was only between September 1, 2011 and August 28, 2012, that the employee may have had the hepatitis C virus and could have spread it to others. There has been no potential for exposure since August 28, 2012.

Hepatitis C is a virus that is treatable. Left untreated, however, it can potentially cause serious liver damage. A person infected with hepatitis C often has no symptoms. For this reason, even if you feel perfectly healthy, it is important for you to be properly tested. This is the only way you will know if you've been exposed to the virus and, if exposed, whether you might benefit from additional medical therapy and guidance.

In an effort to make this as convenient as possible, we have made arrangements to provide free, confidential testing for hepatitis C at Poudre Valley Hospital. Please bring this letter to the PVH lab of your choice as the letter will serve as your order for the testing. The laboratory will complete a hepatitis C antibody test and will draw enough blood to run further tests as warranted. (See the enclosed information for a complete list of PVH lab locations and contact information).

For more information about hepatitis C, we recommend the state web site: [www.cdphe.state.co.us](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us).

You can also call the Colorado Help Line at 1.877.462.2911 or 303.389.1687 or visit [www.cohelp.us](http://www.cohelp.us).

We recommend you discuss this letter with your personal physician. To avoid the necessity for repeat testing, if you choose to be tested elsewhere, please first have your physician call Poudre Valley Hospital at (970) 495-7380 to obtain the form for the correct testing protocol. However, it will expedite the investigation if the designated labs are used.

At Poudre Valley Hospital we strive to uphold our values: patients first, integrity, excellence. We deeply regret that there is any possibility a former employee may have put patients at risk while under our care and encourage you to participate in this free testing for peace of mind.

Sincerely,

Kevin Unger  
President and CEO